

Statement on Iraq
September 18, 2002

“Last week, President Bush made a forceful case to the United Nations that the world community can no longer afford to ignore the problem of Iraq.”

As the President noted, Saddam Hussein has violated 16 separate United Nations resolutions over the past 10 years. These resolutions require Iraq to give up weapons of mass destruction, sever ties with terrorist entities and respect the human rights of his people.”

“If the U.N. fails to enforce these resolutions, then there is no reason for Saddam – or any other tyrant, to respect the will of this body. We know Saddam continues to pursue nuclear weapons and grows his arsenal of chemical and biological weapons. We can not afford to ignore this menace.”

“I’m pleased the President is giving the world a chance to recognize and confront this danger as a united front. It is important that the President receive a vote on this issue before the end of this session.”

“In recognition of the threat to the U.S. and the world posed by Saddam Hussein, the Congress passed the Iraq Liberation Act in 1998. This law called for regime change then. What has changed since this time to diminish Saddam’s threat to the world?”

“The President has called upon the U.N. to take up its responsibility and ensure consequences for its resolutions or else risk becoming an irrelevant body. Congress needs to support the President on this point and authorize the use of force against Saddam, if necessary.”